

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DEBBIE MERRILL

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Debbie Merrill on her retirement. A committed public servant, Ms. Merrill faithfully worked to represent her constituents and our country on Capitol Hill for over 43 years.

Ms. Merrill learned the value of public service at an early age. Her father, a Native American from the Sioux tribe, served our country in the U.S. Army. After his honorable discharge, he attended college with help from the G.I. Bill. He later served in the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee as a career staffer. Debbie credits the federal help of the G.I. Bill with providing her family a path to success, saying that her career choice was a way for her to "give back to the country that gave [her] family so much."

Over the course of Ms. Merrill's notable career, she worked for five Democratic Congressmen. In 1974, she was hired for her first job in Congress as a legislative assistant to Congressman Clement Zablocki of Wisconsin. She went on to work for Congressmen Nicholas Mavroules and Marty Meehan of Massachusetts. In 1994, she joined Congressman Sam Farr's office as Legislative Director. Among her many efforts on behalf of the people of California's 20th congressional district, she was instrumental in establishing in Marina the country's first joint-from-inception Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs clinic; supporting the opening of the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery; and creating Team Monterey, a collaborative team environment for local defense and national security entities as they seek federal investment. Ms. Merrill served in Congressman Farr's office for over 20 years, until his retirement. She proudly joined my staff after I was sworn in this past January, and swiftly got my office off the ground. Her presence proved invaluable as she led our junior staffers in her capable hands, ensuring that once she retired, I was left with a knowledgeable and strong legislative team. Her background on defense, veterans, transportation, and housing issues was exceptional.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Debbie Merrill for all she has done to serve the people of the central coast of California, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin, and to serve our country. I wish her the very best in her retirement and in all her future endeavors.

HONORING JACOB BRIAN AHART

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Brian Ahart.

Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 394, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Brian Ahart for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America, and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE 106TH
NATIONAL DAY OF TAIWAN

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 106th National Day of Taiwan on October 10, 2017.

For decades, the United States and Taiwan have enjoyed a fruitful partnership that continues to this day. Taiwan is the United States' 10th largest trading partner and 8th largest export market for U.S. agricultural products, which has direct ties to Hoosier. Recently, Taiwan's Agriculture Goodwill Trade Mission to Washington, D.C. and my home state of Indiana culminated in a \$2.8 billion procurement agreement between Taiwan and U.S. grain producers. I applaud the mission's success and look forward to continued collaboration with Taiwan.

I ask my colleagues to join me in support the U.S.-Taiwan relationship, and in wishing Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day.

RECOGNIZING CHILDREN'S CAR-
DIOMYOPATHY AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month and to honor the memory of one of my constituents who lost his life far too early to a truly devastating condition.

Pediatric cardiomyopathy, a chronic and degenerative disease of the heart muscle, is the leading cause of sudden cardiac arrest in children. My constituent, Kyle John Rymiszewski, was diagnosed at birth with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, which thickens the heart muscle and restricts blood flow around the body. He

courageously fought it for years until his heart of gold stopped beating at the young age of fifteen. In memory of their son, Kyle's parents, Ken Rymiszewski and Aimee Cowher, founded the Kyle John Rymiszewski Foundation to increase awareness of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and to fund critically needed research to improve treatment outcomes. Other organizations like the Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation also further this work and help families care for children with cardiomyopathy. I commend these organizations for their tireless work to give our children a better chance at life.

It is important that we recognize Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month and continue to spread awareness about this disease. Over forty percent of children diagnosed with cardiomyopathy will either die or undergo a heart transplant within the first two years of their diagnosis. Despite this, little is known about the causes of this disease and there currently is no cure for it. Although patients with the four different types of cardiomyopathy have varying symptoms, each case poses major challenges and dangers. During this month and beyond, we must commit to spreading information and resources to help identify at-risk children and avoid preventable tragedies.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in spreading awareness of this disease and supporting children like Kyle who suffer from pediatric cardiomyopathy.

RECOGNIZING HON. KEITH
FUDENNA ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleague, Congressman RO KHANNA, I rise to recognize the Honorable Keith H. Fudenna on the occasion of his retirement after 28 years of serving as a judicial officer at the Fremont Hall of Justice.

Keith comes from a family that is dedicated to service. His father, Harold Fudenna, worked with U.S. intelligence forces in the South Pacific. Harold intercepted the message that exposed the location of Admiral Yamamoto, the Japanese military officer who planned the Pearl Harbor attack.

Following in his father's footsteps, Keith graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a degree in mechanical engineering in 1971. He continued pursuing his education at the University of California, Hastings College of Law and earned his juris doctorate in 1974.

Keith was admitted to the State Bar of California in 1974, marking the beginning of his service to the community through both the public and private sectors. He began work at the Fremont City Attorney's Office before transitioning to private practice from 1981 to 1990.

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